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**Telecommunications and exchange
between information technology
systems — Requirements for local and
metropolitan area networks —**

**Part 11:
Wireless LAN medium access control
(MAC) and physical layer (PHY)
specifications**

**AMENDMENT 5: Preassociation
discovery**

*Télécommunications et échange entre systèmes informatiques —
Exigences pour les réseaux locaux et métropolitains —*

*Partie 11: Spécifications du contrôle d'accès du milieu sans fil (MAC)
et de la couche physique (PHY)*

AMENDEMENT 5: Découverte de pré-association



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IEEE Std 802.11ah™-2016,
IEEE Std 802.11aj™-2018,
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**IEEE Standard for Information technology—
Telecommunications and information exchange between systems
Local and metropolitan area networks—
Specific requirements**

Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) Specifications

Amendment 5: Preassociation Discovery

Sponsor

**LAN/MAN Standards Committee
of the
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Approved 14 June 2018

IEEE-SA Standards Board

Abstract: Modifications to IEEE Std 802.11™-2016, above the physical layer (PHY), to enable delivery of preassociation service discovery information to IEEE 802.11 stations (STAs) are defined in this amendment.

Keywords: amendment, bloom filter, hash function, IEEE 802.11™, IEEE 802.11aq™, preassociation, service discovery

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 802.11aq-2018, IEEE Standard for Information technology—Telecommunications and information exchange between systems—Local and metropolitan area networks—Specific requirements—Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) Specifications—Amendment 5: Preassociation Discovery.

This amendment defines one medium access control (MAC) and several physical layer (PHY) specifications for wireless connectivity for fixed, portable, and moving stations (STAs) within a local area. It defines modifications to IEEE Std 802.11-2016, above the physical layer (PHY), to enable delivery of preassociation service discovery information to IEEE 802.11 stations (STAs).

Contents

1.	Overview.....	15
1.3	Supplementary information on purpose.....	15
2.	Normative references.....	16
3.	Definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations.....	16
3.1	Definitions	16
3.2	Definitions specific to IEEE Std 802.11	16
3.4	Abbreviations and acronyms	16
4.	General description.....	17
4.5	Overview of the services.....	17
4.5.4	Access control and data confidentiality services	17
4.5.4.10	MAC privacy enhancements.....	17
4.5.9	Interworking with external networks.....	17
4.5.9.1	General.....	17
4.5.9.2	Preassociation discovery (PAD).....	18
6.	Layer management.....	20
6.3	MLME SAP interface	20
6.3.3	Scan.....	20
6.3.3.3	MLME-SCAN.confirm.....	20
6.3.11	Start.....	20
6.3.11.2	MLME-START.request.....	20
6.3.73	Network discovery and selection support.....	22
6.3.73.2	MLME-GAS.request.....	22
6.3.73.3	MLME-GAS.confirm	23
6.3.73.4	MLME-GAS.indication	25
6.3.73.5	MLME-GAS.response	26
6.3.119	Update.....	28
6.3.119.1	Introduction.....	28
6.3.119.2	MLME-UPDATE.request.....	28
6.3.119.3	MLME_UPDATE.confirm	29
9.	Frame formats.....	31
9.3	Format of individual frame types.....	31
9.3.3	Management frames.....	31
9.3.3.3	Beacon frame format	31
9.3.3.11	Probe Response frame format.....	31
9.3.4.2	DMG Beacon	31
9.4	Management and Extension frame body components	32
9.4.1	Fields that are not elements	32
9.4.1.9	Status Code field	32
9.4.2	Elements.....	32
9.4.2.1	General.....	32
9.4.2.27	Extended Capabilities element.....	32
9.4.2.177	CAG Number element	33

9.4.2.233	Service Hint element.....	34
9.4.2.234	Service Hash element.....	35
9.4.2.235	GAS Extension element	36
9.4.5	Access Network Query Protocol (ANQP) elements.....	37
9.4.5.1	General.....	37
9.4.5.27	CAG ANQP-element.....	37
9.4.5.28	Service Information Request ANQP-element.....	38
9.4.5.29	Service Information Response ANQP-element	39
9.6.8	Public Action details.....	39
9.6.8.1	Public Action frames	39
9.6.8.12	GAS Initial Request frame format.....	40
9.6.8.13	GAS Initial Response frame format.....	40
9.6.8.14	GAS Comeback Request frame format	41
9.6.8.45	Group Addressed GAS Request frame format	41
9.6.8.46	Group Addressed GAS Response frame format	42
9.6.22.2	Announce frame format	43
10	MAC sublayer functional description.....	44
10.3	DCF.....	44
10.3.2	Procedures common to DCF and EDCAF.....	44
10.3.2.11	Duplicate detection and recovery	44
11	MLME	44
11.25	WLAN interworking with external networks procedures.....	44
11.25.3	Interworking procedures: generic advertisement service (GAS).....	44
11.25.3.1	Introduction.....	44
11.25.3.2	GAS Protocol.....	45
11.25.3.3	ANQP procedures.....	53
11.25a	Preassociation discovery (PAD) procedures	54
11.25a.1	General.....	54
11.25a.2	Unsolicited PAD procedure	54
11.25a.3	Solicited PAD procedure	55
11.25a.4	Service hash procedures	56
11.25a.5	Bloom filter hash function operation.....	56
12	Security	57
12.2	Framework	57
12.2.10	Requirements for support of MAC privacy enhancements	57
17	Orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) PHY specification	58
17.3	OFDM PHY	58
17.3.5	DATA field.....	58
17.3.5.5	PHY DATA scrambler and descrambler	58
Annex A (informative)	Bibliography	59
Annex B (normative)	Protocol Implementation Conformance Statement (PICS) proforma.....	60
B.2	Abbreviations and special symbols.....	60
B.2.2	General abbreviations for Item and Support columns	60

B.4	PICS proforma—IEEE Std 802.11-2016.....	60
B.4.3	IUT configuration	60
B.4.20	Interworking (IW) with external networks extensions	60
B.4.32	Preassociation discovery extensions	61
Annex C (normative)	ASN.1 encoding of the MAC and PHY MIB	62
C.3	MIB detail	62
Annex Y (informative)	Preassociation discovery (PAD) additional information	65
Y.1	Preassociation discovery usage models	65
Y.2	Background search.....	65
Y.3	Immediate search	66

Tables

Table 9-27—Beacon frame body	31
Table 9-34—Probe Response frame body	31
Table 9-41—DMG Beacon frame body	31
Table 9-46—Status codes	32
Table 9-77—Element IDs	32
Table 9-135—Extended Capabilities field	32
Table 9-262a1—CAG Information Type definitions	34
Table 9-262ah—False Positive Probability Range subfield values	35
Table 9-271—ANQP-element definitions	37
Table 9-307—Public Action field values	39
Table 9-313—GAS Initial Request Action field format	40
Table 9-314—GAS Initial Response Action field format	40
Table 9-315—GAS Comeback Request Action field format	41
Table 9-325n—Group Addressed GAS Request Action field format	41
Table 9-325o—Group Addressed GAS Response Action field format	42
Table 9-416—Announce frame Action field format	43
Table 11-15—ANQP usage	53

Figures

Figure 4-15a—Unsolicited PAD architecture.....	18
Figure 4-15b—Solicited PAD architecture	19
Figure 9-589b—CAG Number element format.....	33
Figure 9-589c—CAG Tuple field.....	33
Figure 9-589du—Service Hint element format	34
Figure 9-589dv—Bloom Filter Information field format	34
Figure 9-589dw—Service Hash element format	35
Figure 9-589dx—GAS Extension element format	36
Figure 9-589dy—GAS Flags field.....	36
Figure 9-589dz—Response Map Duple subfield format	37
Figure 9-628f—Service Information Request ANQP-element format.....	38
Figure 9-628g—Service Information Request Tuple subfield format.....	38
Figure 9-628e—CAG ANQP-element format.....	38
Figure 9-628h—Service Information Response ANQP-element format.....	39
Figure 9-628i—Service Information Response Tuple subfield format	39
Figure 11-40a—Group addressed GAS Query Request exchange sequence	45
Figure 11-40b—Group addressed GAS Query Response exchange sequence.....	46
Figure 11-40c—Group addressed GAS Query for a specific fragment exchange sequence	47
Figure 11-40d—GAS frame exchange sequence using CAG Version	48
Figure Y-1—Example of a frame exchange for background search with Service Hint matching	66
Figure Y-2—Example of frame exchange for background search with matching Service Hash element ...	66
Figure Y-3—Example of frame exchange for immediate search	67

**IEEE Standard for Information technology—
Telecommunications and information exchange between systems
Local and metropolitan area networks—
Specific requirements**

**Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control
(MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) Specifications**

Amendment 5: Preassociation Discovery

This amendment is based on IEEE Std 802.11™-2016 as amended by IEEE Std 802.11ai™-2016, IEEE Std 802.11ah™-2016, IEEE Std 802.11aj™-2018, and IEEE Std 802.11ak™-2018.

NOTE—The editing instructions contained in this amendment define how to merge the material contained therein into the existing base standard and its amendments to form the comprehensive standard.

The editing instructions are shown in ***bold italic***. Four editing instructions are used: ***change***, ***delete***, ***insert***, and ***replace***. Change is used to make corrections in existing text or tables. The editing instructions specifies the location of the change and describes what is being changed by using ~~strike through~~ (to remove old material) and underscore (to add new material). ***Delete*** removes existing material. ***Insert*** adds new material without disturbing the existing material. Insertions may require renumbering. If so, renumbering instructions are given in the editing instruction. ***Replace*** is used to make changes in figures or equations by removing the existing figure or equation and replacing it with a new one. Editorial notes will not be carried over into future editions because the changes will be incorporated into the base standard.¹

1. Overview

1.3 Supplementary information on purpose

Insert the following item at the end of the dashed list in 1.3:

- Defines mechanisms to enable delivery of preassociation service discovery information to IEEE 802.11 stations (STAs).

¹ Notes in text, tables, and figures of a standard are given for information only and do not contain requirements needed to implement the standard.

2. Normative references

Insert the following normative references into Clause 2 in alphanumeric order:

IEEE Std 802c™-2017, IEEE Standard for Local and Metropolitan Area Networks: Overview and Architecture Amendment 2: Local Medium Access Control (MAC) Address Usage.^{1,2}

IETF RFC 6335, Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Procedures for the Management of the Service Name and Transport Protocol Port Number Registry, August 2011.³

3. Definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

Insert the following definition into 3.1 in alphabetic order:

service hash: A value used for representing a service. This value is formed from a hash of the service name.

3.2 Definitions specific to IEEE Std 802.11

Insert the following definitions into 3.2 in alphabetic order:

service information client (SIC): A logical entity that initiates station (STA) service discovery.

service information registry (SIR): A logical entity that contains caches of information about services that are available via the basic service set (BSS).

3.4 Abbreviations and acronyms

Insert the following abbreviations into 3.4 in alphabetic order:

PAD	preassociation discovery
SIC	service information client
SIR	service information registry
SLAP	Structured Local Address Plan

¹ IEEE publications are available from The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (<http://standards.ieee.org/>).

² The IEEE standards or products referred to in this clause are trademarks of The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc.

³ IEFT documents (i.e., RFCs) are available from the Internet Engineering Task Force (<http://tools.ietf.org/html/>).

4. General description

4.5 Overview of the services

4.5.4 Access control and data confidentiality services

Insert the following subclause (4.5.4.10) after 4.5.4.9:

4.5.4.10 MAC privacy enhancements

When a non-AP STA searches for, and connects to, an infrastructure BSS, IBSS, or PBSS or attempts to discover services on a network preassociation, it defines the addressing of its MAC layer for the particular connection. If the STA uses a fixed MAC address it is trivial to track the STA. An MSDU transmitted by a STA is assigned a sequence number that, if never reset, can also be used to track a device irrespective of the MAC address. If OFDM is used, the PHY DATA scrambler used can enable tracking of a device irrespective of the MAC address if it is not reseeded. The dynamic nature of BSS membership combined with this tracking information allows for construction of a network of connections, locations, and behavior. This network can be used to glean private and sensitive information regarding the individual behind the device.

Furthermore, even without establishing a connection, a mobile or portable STA that gratuitously transmits Probe Request frames containing SSIDs of favored infrastructure BSS networks, or announces the existence of IBSS networks, can reveal potentially sensitive information about its location and location history.

To mitigate this sort of traffic analysis a STA can support the ability to periodically and randomly change its MAC addresses and reset counters and seeds prior to association. While discovering networks, a STA can refrain from gratuitously transmitting Probe Request frames containing SSIDs of favored BSS networks.

4.5.9 Interworking with external networks

Insert the following subclause heading (4.5.9.1), and change the text (originating from the former 4.5.9) of the now 4.5.9.1 as shown:

4.5.9.1 General

The interworking service allows non-AP STAs to access services provided by an external network according to the subscription or other characteristics of that external network. An IEEE Std 802.11 non-AP STA might have a subscription relationship with an external network, e.g., with an SSPN.

An overview of the interworking functions addressed in this standard is provided below:

- Network discovery and selection
 - Discovery of suitable networks through the advertisement of access network type, roaming consortium and venue information, via Management frames
 - Selection of a suitable IEEE 802.11 infrastructure using advertisement services (e.g., access network query protocol (ANQP) or an IEEE 802.21™ Information Server) in the BSS or in an external network reachable via the BSS.
 - Selection of an SSPN or external network with its corresponding IEEE 802.11 Infrastructure
- Preassociation discovery (PAD)
 - Discovery of services offered by a BSS or an external network reachable via that BSS

- Emergency services
 - Emergency Call and Network Alert support at the link level
- QoS mapping distribution
- SSPN interface service between the AP and the SSPN

The generic advertisement service (GAS), described in 4.5.10, provides both support for a STA's network discovery and selection, and support for a conduit for communication by a non-AP STA with other information resources in a network before joining the wireless LAN.

The interworking service supports emergency services by providing methods for users to access emergency services via the IEEE 802.11 infrastructure, advertising that emergency services are supported (see 11.25.6) and identifying that a traffic stream is used for emergency services.

The interworking service provides QoS mapping for SSPNs and other external networks. Since each SSPN or other external network might have its own layer-3 end-to-end packet marking practice (e.g., differentiated services code point (DSCP) usage conventions), a means to remap the layer-3 service levels to a common over-the-air service level is necessary. The QoS Map service provides STAs a mapping of network-layer QoS packet marking to over-the-air QoS frame marking (i.e., user priority).

The SSPN Interface service supports service provisioning and transfer of user permissions from the SSPN to the AP. The method and protocol by which these permissions are transferred from the SSPN are outside the scope of this standard.

Insert the following subclause (4.5.9.2, including Figure 4-15a and Figure 4-15b) after 4.5.9.1:

4.5.9.2 Preassociation discovery (PAD)

4.5.9.2.1 Introduction

PAD is an interworking function provided by a BSS to allow a non-AP and non-PCP STA, prior to association, to discover information concerning services that might be available to the STA when it is associated with the BSS. PAD provides a method for the STA to gather information to aid in the decision to select a BSS with which to associate.

4.5.9.2.2 Architecture

Figure 4-15a and Figure 4-15b show the functional flow of MAC messaging and service information between a service information client (SIC) and a service information registry (SIR). These entities are described in 4.5.9.2.3, 4.5.9.2.4, and 4.5.9.2.5. The active components within the architecture differ depending upon whether unsolicited or solicited PAD is being used.

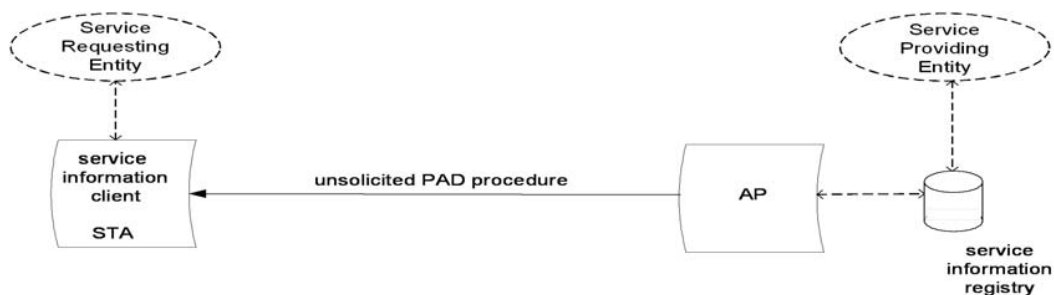


Figure 4-15a—Unsolicited PAD architecture